

Task Force on Key Concepts and Definitions of Migration

Activity report April – June 2019 and call for input to next steps

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Co-chair of the Task Force

Introduction

- Second task force established within the Expert Group on Migration Statistics (EGMS) and thus often referred to as Task Force 2 (TF2)
- Main aim: review of the concepts and definitions of migration
- Composition:
 - 5 countries (Indonesia, Mexico, South Africa, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom)
 - 7 international organizations (Eurostat, ILO, OECD, UNFPA, UNODC, UNPD, UNSD)
 - 3 academic experts
 - Co-chaired by Eurostat and UNSD

Tentative timetable of the TF2

- May – October 2019: global survey aiming to identify relevant features for the definition of international migration.
- October 2019 – June 2020: work on alternative or refined definitions of relevant migration concepts.
- June – October 2020: global consultation on a draft document on concepts and definitions that will feed into the revision of the 1998 Recommendations.
- October – November 2020: updating the draft document following global consultation.
- March 2021: submission to the UNSC Commission by UNSD

Activities April – June 2019

- Terms of Reference
 - To advance a proposal on the definition of international migration/migrant, covering related concepts as well
 - Linkage with population definition
- Questionnaire for global survey on migration definitions applied in the countries
 - It covers (partially) national practices and data sources as well
 - On-line submission (via SurveyMonkey)

Your input needed!

EGMS split in two discussion groups (and possibly again in smaller sub-groups):

- Group 1 reviewing the questionnaire
- Group 2 brainstorming on alternative definitions of migration

Questions to the EGMS members – Group 1

- On the questionnaire (you should have it):
 - How to reach the ‘target population’? Only NSOs, all bodies in charge of migration statistics, others?
 - Currently envisaged approach: transmission to NSOs only, but to be forwarded by the NSO to the relevant national institutions
 - Should the unit of analysis be the country, the institution or what else?
 - Currently envisaged approach: each questionnaire is a unit; only one questionnaire per institution.
 - Are there redundant and/or missing questions?
 - Should some questions be formulated differently?
 - Is the list of concepts related to migration comprehensive enough?
 - Any other improvement you may think of...

Questions to the EGMS members – Group 2

- On the alternative definitions of migration:
 - What are the features that you see relevant in the concept of migration and that should be taken into account in its definition?
 - e.g., personal characteristics, reference to geographic moves, family/social relations, purpose of migration, etc.
 - What would be your definition of migration?
 - Creative thinking is welcomed
 - How your definition would fit in the demographic balance?
 - Would additional categories (other than ‘migration proper’) be needed?
 - Would the definition of population change?
 - What are the pros and cons of your proposal?
 - Which data sources could/should be used?

Thank you!

Would you like to join the TF2, please contact the UNSD secretariat:

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